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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 001674

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [KMPI](#) [BA](#) [EG](#) [DE](#)

SUBJECT: EUR A/S FRIED MEETS WITH DANISH STATE SECRETARY  
CARSTEN STAUR, NOVEMBER 12, 2005, MANAMA, BAHRAIN

Classified By: DCM Susan L. Ziadeh for reasons 1.4 b, d.

[1](#)1. (SBU) Meeting Held on November 12, 2005, 15:30, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Manama, Bahrain.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Participants:

U.S.  
A/S Fried  
Leslie Tsou (TDY Notetaker)

Denmark  
State Secretary Carsten Staur  
Tomas Christensen, Middle East Department Director

[1](#)3. (C) Summary. Following the November 12 Forum for the Future Ministerial Meeting in Bahrain, Danish State Secretary Carsten Staur and Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Dan Fried agreed that establishing the Forum is an important step forward in the global war on terror. A/S Fried noted that the failure to announce the Bahrain Declaration was caused by the Egyptians, who insisted on language that would have restricted regional NGOs. On Iraq, Staur indicated the Danish government would probably extend its mandate until July, but would need to consider carefully what role it could best play after that. A/S Fried pointed out that the situation in Iraq may have developed favorably by July and that Denmark might be able to extend its presence in a different form. Staur expressed Denmark's concern about Iraq's plans for out-of-country voting in the December 15 elections. He said Denmark would consider a possible joint U.S.-European mission to Belarus to warn President Lukashenko of the consequences of fraud in next year's elections. Staur also agreed that Europe needs to pay greater attention to events in the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe (Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova). End summary.

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Danish Support for the Forum for the Future  
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[1](#)4. (C) A/S Fried thanked Denmark for its contribution to the Forum for the Future. Staur said that despite the Forum's failure to issue the Bahrain Declaration, the meeting was a significant achievement and an important step forward in the global war on terror. A/S Fried said Egypt's insistence on language that would restrict NGO activities was the cause that the declaration was not announced. In any event, the important thing now is to keep pushing forward. Staur agreed, noting the French attitude that the Forum is in direct competition with the Barcelona Process is also not helpful.

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Iraq  
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[1](#)5. (C) Staur said that Denmark's parliamentary mandate in Iraq expires on February 1, but that the Danish government will likely succeed in getting a parliamentary continuance until July. After that, Denmark will need to assess the situation on the ground. A/S Fried encouraged Denmark to consider the future in terms of a possibly different landscape in Iraq, with a new Iraqi government and a constitutional process underway. Denmark could conceivably extend in a different form.

[1](#)6. (C) Denmark is worried about Iraq's plans to conduct out-of-country voting in the December elections, Staur said. Previous efforts required an IOM staff of 100 people and three months of preplanning, but the Iraqis have just dispatched a handful of people to Copenhagen with only one month before the election. The Danish government worries that if the out-of-country vote ends in chaos, the Danish public will doubt the entire election. Denmark is also concerned that the Iraqis are sending their best people abroad when they need to be focusing on election arrangements domestically. A/S Fried said he would look into the matter.

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Belarus  
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[1](#)7. (C) A/S Fried said the U.S. is considering a joint U.S.-European delegation to Minsk as early as December to

convey the strong message to Belarussian President Lukashenko that the international community is not prepared to recognize the results of a fraudulent election in 2006, or a fraudulent referendum on a union with Russia. Staur said such a mission is an excellent opportunity for U.S.-European cooperation and that Denmark would consider supporting it.

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Azerbaijan/Former Soviet Republics  
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18. (C) On Azerbaijan,s elections, A/S Fried said the U.S. has called for President Aliyev to address fraud in the districts where it occurred, but has not outright condemned the elections or Aliyev himself. Staur agreed that Europe needs to focus more attention on the Caucasus and the former Soviet republics. Once Turkey joins, the EU will border Iraq. A/S Fried noted that this region was a place where Europe and the U.S. could cooperate closely.

19. (U) This message has been cleared by A/S Fried.

MONROE